

## WALTER CRONKITE – IMAGE #38

A ticker tape parade is a parade event held in a large urban setting that permits large amounts of shredded paper to be thrown from nearby office buildings onto the parade route, creating the effect of a huge celebration with the snowstorm-like flurry of paper. The term originated in New York City after a spontaneous celebration held on October 28, 1886, during the dedication of the Statue of Liberty. Ticker tape parades are still most closely associated with New York City.

The term “ticker tape” originally referred to the use of the paper output of ticker tape machines, which were remotely driven devices used in brokerage houses to provide updated stock market quotes. Now, however, the paper products are largely waste office paper, which has been cut by using conventional paper shredders. The city also distributes paper confetti.

In New York City ticker tape parades have been reserved for special occasions. In recent decades they have been held for space exploration triumphs, military honors, and sports championships. The section of lower Broadway through the Financial District that serves as the parade route is colloquially called the “Canyon of Heroes.” Lower Broadway in New York City has plaques at regular intervals to celebrate each of the city’s ticker tape parades.

On August 13, 1969, a huge ticker tape parade was held in New York City as its citizens exuberantly hailed the American astronauts of the successful Apollo 11 mission to the moon – Commander Neil Armstrong, Air Force Colonel Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, and Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael Collins.

Later that same day, a similar ticker tape parade occurred in Chicago to celebrate and honor the accomplishments and safe return of the Apollo 11 crew members.